

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAZATL 00095 160005Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 HA-05 /026 W
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FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1601
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0095

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CASC, CDES, MX (PIAZZA, RENATO FERRER JR.)
SUBJ: PRESUMED MURDER OF AMCIT RENATO FERRER PIAZZA, JR.,
IN MAZATLAN

1. PIAZZA, WHO HAD BEEN ON VACATION WITH HIS BROTHER RICHARD AND FRIEND RONALD FREDERICKS, WAS FOUND DEAD ON BEACH AT BASE OF A SEVENTY FOOT CLIFF NEAR HIS HOTEL ON MARCH 13 AT 0800 HOURS. ACCORDING TO CORONER WITH WHOM CONSUL HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION, DEATH WAS CAUSED BY BLOW TO HEAD. CORONER UNABLE TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER IT CAME BEFORE OR AFTER FALL. NO AUTOPSY PERFORMED, AS NECESSARY EQUIPMENT UNAVAILABLE IN MAZATLAN.

2. LOCAL PRESS STATED THAT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT PIAZZA SCUFFLED WITH TWO ASSAILANTS ON TOP OF CLIFF. PRESS SPECULATES THAT HE WAS THROWN OVER THE CLIFF AND THAT MOTIVE WAS ROBBERY. PRESS ALSO STATED THAT PROBABLY U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD PROTEST THE MURDER OF A U.S. CITIZEN AND WOULD DEMAND MORE SECURITY FOR VACATIONING TOURISTS IN MAZATLAN.

3. MUNICIPAL POLICE REPORT SHOWS CAUSE OF DEATH AS BLOW TO HEAD. CONSUL SPOKE TO POLICE INSPECTOR WHO SAID NORTH BEACH AREA WHERE INCIDENT OCCURRED AND WHERE MOST BIG HOTELS LOCATED NOT WELL PROTECTED, AS HE DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT UNITS TO PATROL. FURTHERMORE, HE ADDED, U.S. CITIZENS BECOME OVERLY UNCLASSIFIED

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FRIENDLY WITH UNSAVORY PEOPLE ON BEACHES. HE SAID ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO BEEF UP PATROLS AND THAT 600 EXTRA POLICE WOULD BE BROUGHT FROM CULIACAN TO PATROL BEACHES EASTER WEEK. ON MARCH 15, CONSUL CALLED ON STATE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC EVIDENCE HAS BEEN UNCOVERED, HE FEELS THAT ASSAILANTS ATTACKED PIAZZA, TRIED TO ROB HIM, AND THAT HE WAS THROWN OVER CLIFF IN STRUGGLE. HE

CITED FOOTPRINTS AT THE TOP OF CLIFF AS A CLUE. ADDING THAT STATE JUDICIAL POLICE HAD BEEN ORDERED TO INVESTIGATE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY NOTED THAT STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THIS CASE, AND, IF EVIDENCE WARRANTS, A SPECIAL CULIACAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY WILL BE ASSIGNED.

4. REMAINS OF PIAZZA WILL BE SHIPPED MARCH 16 TO CLARK'S FUNERAL HOME, VASSAR, MICHIGAN, TELEPHONE (517) 823-8621. BROTHER RICHARD NOTIFIED MOTHER, MRS. ELEANOR PIAZZA WHO RESIDES AT 4105 SAGINAW RD, VASSAR, MICHIGAN 48768. TELEPHONE (517)823-3425.

5. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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